

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15962 01 OF 02 231855Z POSS DUPE
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01
AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 CCO-00
OTPE-00 FCC-01 OC-06 BIB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CG-00
DOTE-00 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /150 W
-----116078 232124Z /63

P R 231810Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8637
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15962

FROM US DEL ANTARCTICA

E.O.LL652: GDS
TAGS: XV, TGEN, UK
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING-
SUMMARY REPORT OF FIRST WEEK'S SESSIONS
REF: LONDON L5687
L. SUMMARY. DELIBERATIONS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE
NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING WERE DEVOTED LARGELY TO
MARINE LIVING RESOURCE QUESTIONS AND THE EXPERTS' DIS-
CUSSIONS TO APPRAISE TECHNOLOGY FOR MINERALS EXPLORATION
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15962 01 OF 02 231855Z POSS DUPE

AND EXPLOITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CASE
THEREOF. AGENDA ITEMS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN
ANTARCTICA AND THE IMPACT OF TOURISM WERE ALSO DISCUSSED
IN FRIDAY'S PLENARY SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON
SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21 WERE DEVOTED TO LIVING RESOURCE

ITEM. A WORKING GROUP ON LIVING RESOURCES HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WILL BEGIN MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26. THIS WORKING GROUP, TO BE CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR MCARTHUR, HEAD OF THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION, WILL EXAMINE MARINE LIVING RESOURCE ISSUE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, INCLUDING QUOTE POSSIBLE INTERIM MEASURES, AND MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A MARINE LIVING RESOURCES REGIME UNQUOTE.

3. THE WORKING GROUP WILL CONSIDER DRAFTS TABLED AT MARCH AND JULY PREPARATORY MEETINGS AS WELL AS PROPOSALS INTRODUCED AT CONSULTATIVE MEETING ITSELF. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO DATE INCLUDE DRAFT CONVENTION ON CONSERVATION OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN TABLED BY SOUTH AFRICA AND DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES PUT FORWARD BY AUSTRALIA. BOTH DRAFTS, PARTICULARLY THE AUSTRALIAN, PARALLEL U.S. THINKING IN APPROACH TO CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF A COMMISSION. PREDICTABLY, THE AUSTRALIAN DRAFT RAISES CLAIMANT ISSUES WHILE THE SOUTH AFRICAN DRAFT LARGELY AVOIDS THEM. USSR HAS ALSO TABLED A PAPER OUTLINING DRAFT ELEMENTS OF A MARINE LIVING RESOURCE REGIME. ARGENTINE DRAFT OF RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION BY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES IS EXPECTED. WE INTEND TO TABLE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION IN WHICH NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING

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PAGE 03 LONDON 15962 01 OF 02 231855Z POSS DUPE

WOULD ENDORSE NEGOTIATION OF AN ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCE CONVENTION IN THE FIRST HALF OF L978 AND THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN U.S. OPENING PLENARY SPEECH.

4. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL, DEMONSTRATE IMPORTANT EVOLUTION IN POSITIONS OF CONSULTATIVE PARTIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF CHILE. ARGENTINE POSITION REFLECTS MAJOR SHIFT IN POLICY, WITH GOA NOW PREPARED TO CONSIDER CONVENTION TO CONSERVE LIVING RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE APPLICABLE NORTH AS WELL AS SOUTH OF 60 DEGREES SOUTH. JAPAN IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN EARLY NEGOTIATIONS ON LIVING RESOURCE CONVENTION, PROVIDED THAT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT RATIONAL UTILIZATION AS WELL AS CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES IS RECOGNIZED. USSR AND POLAND HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERN THAT CONSERVATION IS SOMETIMES USED TO PRECLUDE RATIONAL UTILIZATION. SOVIET APPROACH REMAINS CAUTIOUS BUT THEY HAVE INDICATED PREPAREDNESS TO CONSIDER CON- FERENCE TO NEGOTIATE CONVENTION IN L978.

5. CHILEAN POSITION HAS NOT MOVED, WITH ITS REP-

REPRESENTATIVE (ZEGERS) ASSERTING THAT AGREED MEASURES
APPROACH IS AS FAR AS CHILE CAN GO NOW AND THAT IDEA
OF CONVENTION SHOULD BE DEFERRED TO MORE DISTANT FUTURE.
SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR INTERIM CONSER-
VATION MEASURES, OF VOLUNTARY NATURE, PENDING NEGO-
TIATION OF CONVENTION. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY,
UK, AND SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR RAPID

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15962 02 OF 02 241839Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 15962

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMISSION OF SIGNATURE

PROGRESS. FRENCH APPEAR WILLING TO ENVISAGE CON-
VENTION BUT ARE VERY VAGUE ON TIMING AND MODALITIES.

6. AT A MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATION, ON SEPTEMBER 22,
AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE RAISED ISSUE OF LEGAL/POLITICAL
QUESTIONS ON MINERALS. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE, HOWEVER,

THAT DISCUSSION OF LEGAL/POLITICAL ISSUES IN PLENARY
OR WORKING GROUP SESSIONS SHOULD AWAIT COMPLETION OF
EXPERTS GROUP REPORT SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEDNESDAY.
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PAGE 02 LONDON 15962 02 OF 02 241839Z

INFORMAL DISCUSSION INDICATES MOVEMENT TOWARD SUPPORT
OF PROGRESS ON A MINERALS REGIME. SOVIET, AUSTRALIAN,
NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINE DELEGATES HAVE INDICATED SUCH
SUPPORT. NEW ZEALAND DELEGATE INFORMALLY PASSED US
DELEGATE A DRAFT DECLARATION ON EXPLORATION AND
EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE ANTARCTIC.
AS REPORTED REFTEL AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE CONTINUES TO
SUPPORT MORATORIUM STRONGLY.

7. THE MEETING OF EXPERTS TO APPRAISE TECHNOLOGY FOR
POSSIBLE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION AND FOR ENVIRON-
MENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION MET 20 SEPTEMBER AND
PROMPTLY AGREED TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MARTIN HOLDGATE,
OF THE UK, WHO BY DEFT JUGGLING OF SEVERAL DRAFT AGENDAS
SUCCEEDED IN REVERTING TO A MODIFIED FORM OF THE DRAFT
AGREED AD REFERENDUM AT MARCH PREPARATORY BUT NEVER
HERETOFORE APPROVED BY SOVIETS AND OTHERS.

8. THE CHAIRMAN ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP OF THE
WHOLE AND INSISTED THAT EXPERTS SPEAK ONLY TO THE AGENDA,
A TACTIC WHICH PROVED SUCCESSFUL. THE TECHNOLOGY
REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY CONSIDERING EACH TOPIC IN TURN,
WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE EXPERTS POOLING EXPERTISE ON EACH
TOPIC UNTIL CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON THE STATE OF THE
ART AND LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS. THE CHAIRMAN THEN SUM-
MARIZED THE DISCUSSION, HIS SUMMARY TO BE THE BASIS OF
THE EXPERTS REPORT. SUCCESS OF THIS TECHNIQUE WAS
ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE HIGH CALIBER OF THE EXPERTS FIELDED
BY THE US, UK, FRANCE, NORWAY, AND ARGENTINA, AND TO
THE CHAIRMAN'S PROMPT ACTION TO PREVENT DIGRESSIONS,
PARTICULARLY INTO PROLONGED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DIS-
CUSSIONS. THE USSR PRODUCED NO EXPERTS EXCEPT
PROFESSOR MIKHAIL RAVICH, A GEOLOGIST WELL KNOWN IN
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PAGE 03 LONDON 15962 02 OF 02 241839Z

ANTARCTIC FORA, WHOSE INTERVENTIONS TENDED TO REFLECT
PREVIOUS SOVIET LINE OR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF
TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES.

9. THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW AND BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE
SCAR EAMREA REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF RESOURCE ACTIVITY

ON ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT WERE COMPLETED BY WEEK'S END, WITH THE AGREED TECHNOLOGY SUMMARY AND PRELIMINARY GUIDELINES ON METHODS FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION, PROTECTION AND CLEANUP TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN FUTURE SESSIONS.

10. ON THE SUBJECT OF HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS THE USSR SUBMITTED A DRAFT AGENDS FOR A WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS TO CONSIDER THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE SITUATION IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. EMPHASIS APPEARED TO BE PRIMARILY RELATED TO EXTERNAL REQUESTS FOR DATA IN SUPPORT OF WORLD WEATHER WATCH, GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM (GARP) AND FIRST GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (FGGE). UK NOTED THAT METEOROLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY EXISTING GROUP OF EXPERTS UNDER THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO), BUT THAT UK WAS UNAWARE OF ANY REQUEST FROM CONSULTATIVE PARTIES THAT WMO UNDERTAKE SUCH A REVIEW. AUSTRALIA MADE MOST HELPFUL INTERJECTION ON TERMS OF REFERENCE. THE EXPERTS GROUP WILL MEET AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK TO PURSUE THESE QUESTIONS.

11. THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE EFFECTS OF TOURISTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXPEDITIONS IN THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA WAS THE LAST ONE ADDRESSED IN FRIDAY'S PLENARY SESSION. AN INFORMAL DRAFTING GROUP HEADED BY CHILE WILL ATTEMPT LATER IN THE MEETING TO RECONCILE THE UK DRAFT FOR ANNEX A OF RECOMMENDATION VIII-9 WITH CHILEAN AND ARGENTINE COMMENTS. A UK DRAFT RECOMMEN-
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PAGE 04 LONDON 15962 02 OF 02 241839Z

DATION ON URGING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR EXPEDITIONS TO ANTARCTICA WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED. THE IMPACT OF TOURISM WAS DRAMATIZED BY THE POLES, WHO REPORTED THAT IN THE FIRST, SHORT SEASON OF THE OPERATION OF THEIR NEW STATION, OVER 600 TOURISTS VISITED THE STATION,BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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